

1 THE HONORABLE JOHN C. COUGHENOUR

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7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
8 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
9 AT SEATTLE

10 NORMAN GOTCHER, JR.,

11 Plaintiff,

12 v.

13 AAMACO TRANSMISSION AUTO
14 CAR CARE REPAIR, *et al.*,

15 Defendants.

CASE NO. C17-1529-JCC

MINUTE ORDER

16 The following Minute Order is made by direction of the Court, the Honorable John C.
17 Coughenour, United States District Judge:

18 This matter comes before the Court *sua sponte*. On October 20, 2017, Magistrate Judge
19 James Donohue granted Plaintiff Norman Gotcher Jr.'s ("Gotcher") motion to proceed *in forma*
20 *pauperis* (Dkt. No. 5). Gotcher has requested the Court order the Defendants be served with his
21 complaint (Dkt. No. 6 at 4.) Additionally, he has made a motion to have the Court appoint
22 counsel. (Dkt. No. 2). The Court has reviewed Gotcher's complaint in accordance with 28 U.S.C.
23 § 1915(e)(2)(B).

24 Gotcher's complaint does not appear to meet the requirements of Federal Rule of Civil
25 Procedure 8(a)(1), which requires "a short and plain statement of the grounds for the court's
26 jurisdiction, unless the court already has jurisdiction and the claim needs no jurisdictional

1 support.” Gotcher does not plead facts that identify a valid basis for this Court’s jurisdiction. In
2 his complaint, Gotcher states that his case should be filed in federal court because “this case
3 occurred in King County, Washington and all acts thereto?” (Dkt. No. 6 at 2.)

4 Federal courts generally possess two types of subject matter jurisdiction—federal
5 question jurisdiction and diversity of citizenship jurisdiction. Federal question jurisdiction exists
6 where a plaintiff’s claim arises “under the Constitution, law, or treaties of the United States.” 28
7 U.S.C. § 1331. Diversity of citizenship jurisdiction exists where the amount at issue in the
8 lawsuit is more than \$75,000 and no plaintiffs or defendants are citizens of the same state. *See* 28
9 U.S.C. § 1332.

10 Gotcher has not plead facts that demonstrate his lawsuit is based on the Constitution,
11 laws or a treaty of the United States. Gotcher has not plead facts that demonstrate he seeks
12 damages in excess of \$75,000 or that he and the Defendants are citizens of different states. This
13 Court must dismiss a complaint if it appears that it has no jurisdiction to proceed. Fed. R. Civ. P.
14 12(h)(3) (“If the court determines at any time that it lacks subject matter jurisdiction, the court
15 must dismiss the action.”)

16 Based on the above, the Court declines to order Gotcher’s summons and complaint be
17 served as written or to appoint counsel. Gotcher is ORDERED TO SHOW CAUSE why this
18 Court has subject matter jurisdiction over his lawsuit. Gotcher’s response to this Minute Order
19 must be submitted on or before November 22, 2017, and must not be longer than six (6) pages.

20 The Clerk is DIRECTED to mail a copy of this order to Gotcher.

21 DATED this 23rd day of October 2017.

22 William M. McCool
23 Clerk of Court

24 s/Tomas Hernandez
25 Deputy Clerk
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